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Letter dated 21 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 21 October 1996 addressed to you by His Excellency, Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex, which contains a letter from His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, dated 17 October 1996, sent to Mr. Glafcos Clerides, the leader of the Greek Cypriot Community, would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 21 October 1996 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the copy of a letter dated 17 October 1996 addressed by H.E. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, to Mr. Glafcos Clerides, the leader of the Greek Cypriot Community, in connection with the information received that a group of Greek Cypriots are planning new acts of provocation in the United Nations-controlled buffer zone in Cyprus.

I shall be grateful if the text of the present letter and its appendix could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

APPENDIX

Letter dated 17 October 1996 from Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş addressed to Mr. Glafcos Clerides

It has been brought to my attention by well-informed sources that a group of fanatic Greek Cypriots from the village of Avgorou had vowed to take revenge for the last border incident on Sunday, and that they are preparing an attack on some Turkish Cypriot residents of Pyla. The fact that the Greek Cypriot population, who plan to become active under the guise of "militia forces" all along the border area, including Pyla, have been equipped with heavy weaponry and ammunition, undoubtedly constitutes an important encouraging factor for these fanatics.

In view of this information, I am appealing to you to take the necessary precautionary steps before it is too late. As you are well aware, highly provocative acts perpetrated from the south against our people along the borders have intensified during the last few months. The latest case in point was the Akincilar (Luridgina) incident when three to four unidentified persons tried to approach our sentries by violating the buffer zone, but were forced to turn back when our sentries fired warning shots in the air.

It is of paramount importance to ensure that Pyla, the only mixed village in the buffer zone, is a place where the two peoples of the island can coexist peacefully, side by side and in complete security. In order to achieve this end, which will no doubt help ease the tension prevalent among our communities, the so-called militia along the borders should be immediately disarmed and especially the guns and ammunition supplied to the Greek Cypriot residents of Pyla should be retrieved as soon as possible.

Any hostile attempt on the Turkish residents of Pyla will no doubt deal a serious blow to our efforts directed towards ending our differences in order to facilitate a mutually acceptable solution. I am sure you will agree that such attacks, if put into effect, and constant provocations which have come to be a habit for some period, will not serve the cause of peace but will only bring catastrophe and disaster to Cyprus.

I believe the historic responsibility for averting this danger and reversing the alarming trend rests squarely on our shoulders jointly and wish to reiterate my call for early direct talks with you with a view to finding a settlement in line with the already agreed principles and parameters that stem from the high-level agreements and their subsequent clarifications.

We have already informed the United Nations authorities in connection with the planned hostile intentions of the Avgorou villagers and warned them about the potential dangers of such aggressive behaviour. We only hope that serious measures will be put into effect by both the United Nations and your authorities to prevent yet another tragedy from happening.

With regard to the unmanning proposal of the United Nations, my position still remains that we should not let political considerations stand in the way of progress on this sensitive issue.

I proposed in the past that the Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) should conduct proximity talks between the two sides in order to reach an agreement on the issues pertaining to this matter as soon as possible. With whom the UNFICYP Commander enters into consultation on each side should be irrelevant to the politicians. What is wanted is unmanning so that accidents are averted on our borders.

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAŞ